

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 230728

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /018 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC

APPROVED BY NEA - MR. ATHERTON

NEA/IRN - MR. GREEN

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O P 171720Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

INFO USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

SECRET STATE 230728

FOR AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IR, IZ

SUBJECT: BARZANI PROBLEM

1. BARZANI NOW WANTS TO GO TO EUROPE WITHIN THE WEEK, SPEND TWO MONTHS THERE, AND RETURN TO THE U.S. AFTER THE U.S. ELECTIONS. HE CLAIMS HE WILL NOT GO, HOWEVER, UNLESS WE PUT A RE-ENTRY VISA IN HIS PASSPORT (AND THOSE OF HIS ENTourage) IN EFFECT GUARANTEEING THAT HE CAN RETURN TO THE U.S.

2. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY TURNED DOWN HIS REQUEST THAT WE FACILITATE VISITS TO THE U.S. BY SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN EUROPE, EXPLAINING THAT THIS WOULD IN EFFECT BE ENCOURAGING HIM TO CONDUCT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES FROM AMERICAN SOIL.

3. IT IS FAIRLY CLEAR THAT BARZANI WANTS TO GET BACK IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH HIS KURDISH NETWORK IN EUROPE AND RETURN HERE LATER TO SEE WHETHER THE ELECTIONS HAD AFFECTED MATTERS IN A WAY THAT WOULD PRODUCE U.S. SUPPORT FOR HIS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 230728

CAUSE. IN THE END, HE WILL PROBABLY TRY TO STAY IN THE U.

FOR GOOD. WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT HIS WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE IS ABOUT TO TAKE OUT A FIVE YEAR LEASE ON A HOUSE IN VIRGINIA.

4. WE ARE INCLINED TO GIVE HIM A RE-ENTRY VISA AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPS OVER NEXT TWO MONTHS. REFUSING TO DO SO COULD PRECIPITATE A PRESS CAMPAIGN AND POSSIBLY AN ASYLUM REQUEST THAT WOULD BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO TURN DOWN. ISSUE WOULD BE WHETHER HE COULD RETURN IN SAFETY TO HIS HOMELAND OF IRAQ, NOT WHETHER HE COULD RETURN SAFELY TO COUNTRY OF REFUGEE (IRAN). WE HOPE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES APPRECIATE THIS DISTINCTION.

5. BELIEVE YOU SHOULD SEEK VIEWS OF APPROPRIATE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES ON BARZANI'S REQUEST, AND EXPLAIN WE ARE INCLINED TO PROVIDE HIM WITH RE-ENTRY PERMISSION ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT REACHED DECISION. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER. ROBINSON

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